CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1535
5 June 1998

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 2 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER OF THE HOLY SEE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRESS OFFICE OF THE HOLY SEE CONCERNING THE RECENT NUCLEAR TESTS

I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency the attached text of a statement made by the Director of the Press Office of the Holy See concerning the recent nuclear tests.

Please take the necessary steps for this text to be issued as a Conference document.

(Signed): Giuseppe Bertello
Apostolic Nuncio
Permanent Observer

GE.98-62271 (E)

STATEMENT MADE BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRESS OFFICE OF THE HOLY SEE CONCERNING THE RECENT NUCLEAR TESTS

The position of the Holy See is that set out publicly by Pope John Paul II in his statement to the diplomatic corps on 13 January 1996:

> "The Holy See is of the opinion that, in the sphere of nuclear weapons, the banning of tests and the further development of these weapons, disarmament and non-proliferation are closely linked and must be achieved as quickly as possible under effective international control. These are steps towards general and total disarmament which the international community as a whole should accomplish without delay."